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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (03/31): PALESTINIANS: CULTURE  
OF VIOLENCE HARMS CIVILIANS ON BOTH SIDES

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Main Stories:  
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Al-Quds leads with news from the Second Summit of Arab-South American leaders held in Doha on March 31. The leaders stressed the need to strengthening ties between their countries, particularly in terms of working towards international and regional peace and security. The reports, that also appear on the front pages of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and Al-Ayyam, quote Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas addressing summit participants about the importance of adopting the Arab Peace Initiative. Abbas noted that the initiative must be promoted by regional leaders and that mechanisms for implementation must be identified. Regarding concerns about the new Israeli government, Abbas called on Israel to recognize signed agreements regarding the two state solution and halt all settlement activities, dismantle checkpoints and lift the "siege", according to coverage.

Al-Ayyam leads with a wire report noting that the new Israeli government was sworn in on March 31. According to the report, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his readiness to pursue peace talks with the Palestinian Authority based on promoting security and economic stability, without making mention of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. In related news, Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front page an AFP report about observers expectations that the Middle East peace process will be put on hold under the Netanyahu government.

Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida cite a Wafa report on their front pages, quoting Palestinian Authority(PA) President Abbas explaining that the resignation of PA Premier Fayyad was made to support and facilitate national Palestinian dialogue and that the resignation was not accepted. According to Abbas, the PA will wait to review the outcome of national dialogue before deciding on how to proceed

with any new PA government.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with a wire report about the third round of national Palestinian dialogue that will begin in Cairo on April 1. The latest round of talks, according to the report that also appears on the front pages of Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam, will focus on the pending, key issues of new PA parliamentary and presidential elections, the formation of a consensus government, security, PLO reform.

In economic news, Al-Quds front pages a report about the merger of Palestinian Telecommunications Group(Jawwal) and the Kuwaiti Zayn Group. Al-Quds quotes Palestinian Authority (PA) Premier Fayyad stressing that the PA is working seriously to finalize the agreement that should be concluded soon. According to the report, that is also on the inside pages of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, the merger will be "extremely useful" to the Palestinian economy and give proof that the PA is serious about encouraging investment in the Palestinian Territories. Chairman of the Palestinian Telecommunications Board of Directors, Sabih Al-Masri, is quoted in the Al-Quds report, asserting that the merger reflects the strength of the Palestinian private sector and its ability to overcome external challenges.

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BLOCK QUOTES:  
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1) Hamada Fara'nah opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "Inevitable Palestinian-Israeli Partnership"(04/01): "Palestine/Israel has become one state where the leaders of the two nations must combat the culture of violence, terror and racial

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discrimination. This culture can continue to inflict harm for a long time on civilians... in Gaza as well as in Natanya, in Hebron as well as in Tel-Aviv."

2) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "Israeli Challenges... and Palestinian Division"(04/01): "The peace slogans that were made by Netanyahu will not deceive anyone. Peace cannot be won in parallel with settlements, the siege, oppression, the occupation... our Arab leaders should know by now that the so called "peace process" has always been a slogan used by all Israeli governments without meaning. The Palestinians have to achieve national unity in order to counter Israel and its western allies."

WALLES